

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 021230Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 686

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV

SUBJ: SA CARNEIRO AND THE PPD COME TO TOWN

1. AN ESTIMATED CROWD OF 15,000 PPD SUPPORTERS GATHERED IN OPORTO'S DELGADO SQUARE TO WIDLY CHEER SA CARNEIRO IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE BEING NAMED SECRETARY GENERAL OF PPD. RALLY WAS ORGANIZED ON SHORT NOTICE TO DEMONSTRATE "UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO VI GOVERNMENT AND PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO". CROWD REACTED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO SUCH SLOGANS AS "NO FALSE INFORMATION", "LISTEN FUR, THE PEOPEL ARE ON THE WARPATH" AND "IN FRONT WITHOUT FEAR, PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO" BUT GAVE HEAVIEST APPLAUSE TO SA CARNEIRO, HE URGED CALM AND RESPECT FOR OTHER PARTIES THEN LED CROWD ON MARCH TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT BUILDING WHERE HE MADE PRINCIPAL ADDRESS ON BALCONY ALONG SIDE OPORTO'S SOCIALIST GOVERNOR. SA CARNEIRO TOOK STRONG LAW AND ORDER POSITION CRITIZING THOSE WITH "BANDOLEERS" WHO ARE ANTI DEMOCRATIC AND COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY. THE GOVERNOR RESPONDED IN KIND AND THE TWO SEALED THE ENCOUNTER WITH A PUBLIC EMBRACE. CROWD THEN MARCHED TO REGIONAL MILITARY HEADQUARTERS (RMN) TO HEAR SA CARNEIRO A THIRD TIME. RMN COMMANDER RECEIVED A PPD STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF VI GOVERNMENT. RALLY ENDED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

A FEW PS ADHERENTS SPENT EVENING PASSING OUT FLYERS ALERTING PEOPLE TO "PROVACATIONS BY MINORITIES" WHICH SEEMED SLIGHTLY OUT

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OF TUNE IN OPORTO WHERE THINGS CONTINUE TO REAMIN VERY CALM.

2. COMMENT: TURNOUT FOR HASTILY ORGANIZED RALLY WAS IMPRESSIVE AND CLEARLY EXCEEDED PPD EXPECTATIONS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME PPD HAS OFFICIALLY USED DELGADO SQUARE WHICH HAS HERE-TO-FORE BEEN PRIVATE RESERVATION FOR SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. IF ANYTHING, RALLY GAINED ADHERENTS AS EVENING WORE ON AND CROWD VISIBLY APPROVED BI-PARTISAN (PPD/PS) APPEAL PARTICULARLY PUBLIC MEETING BETWEEN SA CARNEIRO AND SOCIALIST GOVERNOR. SA CARNEIRO HIMSELF APPEARED HEALTHY AND VIGOROUS USING HAND-HELD MEGAPHONE IN TWO OF THREE SPEECHES ALL OF WHICH WERE DELIVERED WITHOUT NOTES. HE IS CLEARLY PPD PARTY CHIEF. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP PPD MAY BE MORE CONSERVATIVE BUT IN THE NORTH THAT IS THE TEMPER OF THE TIME.

PENNER

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